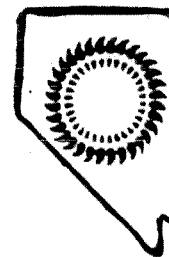


NEVADA CLIMATE SUMMARY



Office of the State Climatologist

Offices: 226 and 322
Mackay Science
(702) 784-1723

John W. James
State Climatologist
Mackay Science Hall
University of Nevada-Reno
Reno, Nevada 89557

VOLUME 13, NUMBER 4

APRIL 1996

Nevada State Library
and Archives

MAY 1 8 2005

STATE PUBLICATIONS

SYNOPSIS

April was a warmer than usual month Statewide, making the 1995-96 Winter 1/2 year (Nov. '95 - Apr. '96) one of the warmest on record, especially in the South where departures from normal the past 6 months were significant. Added to the unusual warmth in the Southern 2/3 of Nevada was the lack of precipitation again this month. Several locations had none, and in fact Las Vegas AP has had only .38 since the Water Year began October 1. This is only 15% of normal. Nearby Overton has had only .58" for just 18% of normal. Searchlight has had 21% and Pahrump only 24%, as only Northwest and Northeast Nevada have enjoyed a wet year. For example, the percentage of normal precipitation ranges from 160% of normal in the North at Kings River Valley, Minden, Gerlach, Emigrant Pass, and Ruby Lake, to less than 1/4 of normal at many Southern locations. In general, the East Slope Sierra Nevada area has had from 120-130% of normal precipitation, while the Humboldt River area has about 110-120%. All of these figures are much lower than one year ago during the very wet 1994-95 Season. The good news for the South is that the Colorado River system above Lake Mead is 115-125% of normal, so water flow will be above normal.

TEMPERATURE

Temperatures were generally within a couple of degrees of normal, except in the South and parts of the Northeast where they were 3 to 4 above. The State record high was nearly broken as Laughlin reached 105° and Overton 104°. The record 106° was at Laughlin and Cottonwood Cove in April 1989.

On the cool side Boies Ranch near Elko fell to 9°, and Manhattan and Ruth 10°. Kyle Canyon, at 7500 feet in the Spring Mountains and Reese River had 12°. Ruth set the April record of -7° in 1963.

PRECIPITATION

Several locations had a dry rain gage this month, including those at Gold Point, Amargosa Valley, Beatty. Desert Rock, Las Vegas Spring Valley and Silverpeak.

The Sierra Nevada and parts of the Northeast were the wettest locations. Jarbidge had 2.96" and 13" of snow, Jarbidge 7N (Chapin) 2.15", Upper Incline 2.53" and 20" of new snow, and Daggett Pass 2.13" and 11" of snow.

SUNSHINE, WIND & EVAPORATION

More sun than usual and warmer temperatures led to above normal evaporation. Fallon had 7.50" of pan evaporation, Shoshone 6.60", Honey Lake 5.74", Minden 5.61", Ruby Lake 5.25", and Reno UNR 4.95". In the South, Overton had 11.35" and Pahrump 10.65".

Wind speeds were near normal for the month, with highest wind gusts along the East Side Sierra Nevada foothills where George Uebele West of Minden recorded 68 mph on the 24th.

NOTE: Records for May are 116 at Cottonwood Cove in 1983 and -7 at Pine Valley in 1990.

John W. James
State Climatologist

Tom Kniefel has lived in Tonopah since he was in grammar school. About 20 years ago he and his wife Paula bought land at the old ghost town of Belmont about 40 miles northeast of Tonopah, and lived there off and on until taking up full time residence 8 years ago. They and 3 other persons make for a year round population of only 5. Tom and Paula like it that way -- more ghosts, fewer people!

The Nevada State Climate Office installed a thermometer and a rain gage at the Kniefel home in 1989. Tom, with occasional help from Paula, have been keeping excellent daily records ever since.

There was an earlier weather record at Belmont from 1889-1906, and 1915-16. In fact, the lowest ever recorded in June for Nevada is still the +8° at Belmont, June 1st, 1891.

Thanks to the Kniefels for recording the weather for the "not quite yet a" ghost town of Belmont.



////////////////////////////////////

A weather station was established at Tonopah in May 1906, and operated in the town area at 5 different but homogenous sites for the next 48 years. In 1954 the station was moved to the Airport, 7 miles east of town and 750' lower. Data from that location was not similar to the town site, as the valley bottom location at the Airport has colder nights than town, cooler days, and less precipitation. In response to residents who realized that data from the Airport, reported to the news media, was not representative of conditions in town, the Nevada State Climate Office installed a weather station in town in 1985. It was operated by Larry Woods until 1990, when the Tonopah Public Utility District took over readings at their offices behind the Mizpah Hotel. Denny Morphew is the observer, and is assisted by Sandy Pettis and Pat Schallenberger. The weather station includes a thermometer shelter, thermometers, a rain gage, and thermograph. Readings are made daily.

Our thanks to the Tonopah PUD for their excellent volunteer work.

John W. James
State Climatologist



Percentage of Normal Precipitation
Oct. 1, 1995 - May 1, 1996

NEVADA CLIMATE STATIONS

